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Attorney Docket: PB 03 0006 (SPLG 003US1)
PATENT

SEP 19 2007

Remarks

The Office Action dated June 25, 2007, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-22 and 24-33 are pending in this application. Claims 1-22 and 24-33 are rejected. Claim 23 is canceled. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending Claims define allowable subject matter.

Turning to the prior art rejections, Claims 1, 4-7 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kittross et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,681,351), hereinafter "Kittross" in view of Mutchler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,689,157), hereinafter "Mutchler". Claims 2, 3, 8, and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kittross in view of Mutchler and further in view of Proskauer (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,674), hereafter "Proskauer". Claims 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kittross in view of Mutchler and further in view of Blitz (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,293), hereinafter "Blitz". Claims 15-22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kittross in view of Proskauer. Claims 26, 27, 30, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kittross in view of Proskauer and further in view of Blitz. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for reasons set forth hereafter.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for distributing software components to a plurality of computer stations that each analyze products. The method includes accessing a test management system that is located remotely from the computer stations, the test management system storing a plurality of software components, obtaining at least one of the software components that includes information used by a computer station which communicates with a test station to analyze a product; and distributing the software component from the test management system to the computer station automatically based on at least one of an identification of the test station and an identification of the product.

Kittross describes a test procedure for testing a device using automatic test equipment (ATE) 20. The ATE system 20 includes a memory 22 having the test procedures 40 stored therein, a test interface 28 to connect to and test the devices 46, and a processor 26 coupled to the

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memory 22 for executing the test procedures 40 using the test interface 28. In use, Kittross further describes that a user creates a test procedure from test elements stored in a test element database 36 located locally within memory 22 of ATE system 20. The completed test procedure is then stored within the memory 22 of ATE 20. On page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Kittross discloses "a method for distributing software components to computer stations that analyze products (abstract)". However, Kittross describes a method of transmitting test procedures from the test element database to the local memory, each of which is located in the same ATE. As such, Kittross does not describe a method for distributing software components from a test management system that is located remotely from the computer station automatically. Additionally, as admitted on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, Kittross does not describe or suggest distributing the software component to the computer station based on at least one of an identification of the test station and an identification of the product.

Mutchler describes a method of installing and configuring a test suite for a unit under test (UUT) in an automated assembly process. A user inputs an identifier into the UUT. The identifier, such as a serial number, corresponds to the UUT. The identifier is received by a test suite server 130 that retrieves a Bill of Materials corresponding to the UUT from an IT server 140. Test files and other files specific to the Bill of Materials are then generated by the test suite server 130 and copied to the UUT. The UUT is then tested using the test files and other files, which constitute the test suite. Accordingly, Mutchler does not describe or suggest distributing a software component from a test management system to a computer station which communicates with a test station that is used to analyze a product. Rather, Mutchler describes distributing a software component (the test suite) directly into the product being tested (the UUT), i.e. directly from the file server into the product which performs a self test. Thus Mutchler does not describe a test station used to analyze the UUT.

Proskauer describes a test system that includes a PC workstation 2000, a tester 2002, and a semiconductor handler 2004. The workstation 2000 includes an operator controls section 2022 that is installed within workstation 2000 and is loaded with a library of handler drivers. During use, an operator selects a handler from a menu of available handler drivers that are installed on the local workstation, connects it, and enables it. As such, Proskauer does not describe a method for distributing software components from a test management system that is located remotely

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from the computer station automatically based on at least one of an identification of the test station and an identification of the product as recited in Claim 1. Rather, Proskauer describes that the handler drivers are installed in the operator controls section 2022 located within workstation 2000.

Blitz describes a semiconductor test system in which a spreadsheet workbook has one or more spreadsheets containing nested levels of name device parameter data. Blitz, like Proskauer describes that the handler drives are installed in the operator controls section 2022 located within workstation 2000. As such, Blitz does not describe a method for distributing software components from a test management system that is located remotely from the computer station automatically based on at least one of an identification of the test station and an identification of the product as recited in Claim 1.

None of Mutchler, Proskauer, or Blitz make up for the deficiencies of Kittross with respect to Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2-14 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of independent Claim 1, dependent Claims 2-14 are likewise considered to be patentable over the cited art. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 2-14 recite additional features that are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art.

Claim 15, as amended, recites a management system database configured to be used with a computer station that operates an instrument when analyzing a product, wherein the database stores software components that are configured to be executed by the computer station to communicate with and operate the instrument in order to analyze the product, the database is located remotely from the computer station and automatically accesses the software components based on identification of at least one of the computer station, the instrument and the product.

Kittross does not describe or suggest a management system database as recited in Claim 15. For example, Kittross does not describe or suggest that the management system database is located remotely from the computer station. Rather, Kittross describes a method of transmitting test procedures from the test element database to the local memory, wherein the database and the